ちはやふる

Poem 182

ALWAYS CONTINUE.

I'LL FIND NORMAL EMPLOYMENT, BUT STILL CONTINUE PLAYING KARUTA.

IT'D BE FUN, DON'T YOU THINK?

SOME DAY, IF I BECAME THE PRESIDENT OF THE KARUTA ASSOCIATION,

THE FIRST ONE TO LOSE

WILL QUIT COMPETITIVE KARUTA FOR GOOD.

ガバ

WAH!

D-

DON'T, TAICHI.

DON'T.

IT'S WRONG.

YOU SHOULD-N'T MAKE A BET LIKE THAT.

YOU SHOULDN'T.

SHUT UP, AYASE.

IT'S OBVIOUSLY HIS CHOSEN TACTICS TO MESS WITH ME.

WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT?

SCREW YOU AND THAT BET OF YOURS.

HERO

HE AND AYASE LOOK LIKE THINGS ARE AWFULLY AWKWARD BETWEEN THEM?

.....

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

WHAT'S UP WITH MASHI-MA?

"MASHIMA IS DISTINCTLY STRONGER WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND."

.....

AH.

NOT EVEN TO YOU.

MY FUTURE BROTHER-IN-LAW.

!!!

tactics to mess with the opponent

W-WELL, I GUESS.

WHY DO YOU CARE, HYORO? YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF FIRST.

'CAUSE I'VE NO INTENTION OF LOSING, Y'KNOW.

十0 flattered 7-/

EROMU-SAN, HAVE YOU MANAGED TO GET A GIRLFRIEND IN COLLEGE?

YOU'RE A TEST-TAKER THIS YEAR, RIGHT? WHAT ARE YOU EVEN DOING HERE THEN?

EH~~~ WHAT WAS YOUR NAME, AGAIN?

GROPGROP もみもみ

A PRETTY BOY AS A GIRL, YOU SEE.

...YOU CAN EASILY IMAGINE

...DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

WHEN YOU'RE AT MY LEVEL...

もみ grop

grop もみ

EROMU, FOCUS.

DON'T FEED INTO HIS PROVOCATION.

ヒロ

SORRY ABOUT HIS GETTING PERVIER BY THE MINUTE...

.....

EHP!

EEHP!

I JUST FINISHED BREAT-FEEDING MY GIRL. HOLD HER FOR A BIT FOR ME, WILL YOU?

HER HEAD IS BRACED, SO IT SHOULD BE ALRIGHT.

110 チン

AH GREAT TIMING, YOROSHIKO-KUN.

suck suck

UWA AAH!

I LOST IN THE FIRST ROUND!

EVEN THOUGH I CURLED MY HAIR AS TIGHT AS IT WENT!

EHH

I'm Midori.

EH?

Nice to meet you.

EHH?

I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK AT THE SECOND ROUND MATCHES ON THE FIRST FLOOR, OKAY?

もしや

もしや

I'M GONNA MESS YOUR HAIR SILLY! ♡

AWW! ♡

カタン

Close

NO, I THINK I'LL WATCH FROM THE OUTSIDE.

THERE'S A LOT OF MATCHES AND LITTLE SPACE INSIDE, ANYWAY.

ARE YOU COMING INSIDE?

THE MEMORIZATION TIME IS ALMOST OVER, SO I'M ABOUT TO CLOSE THE DOOR.

AH...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M PLAYING YOU, IGARASHI-SAN.
IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE WE LAST DID THAT, NO?
YES, I BELIEVE SO. PLEASE GO EASY ON ME.
SOME-THING SMELLS NICE...
NICE SMELL ...
WE ARE STARTING.
Nani-wazu ni~
Sakuya kono hana~ Fuyu-gomori~
Ima wo haru be to~ Sakuya kono hana~
Ima wo haru be to~
Sakuya kono hana~

WESTERN MEJI NAND QUEEN QUA*FIER

QU MIJINGUU LEARNING CENTER

DO YOUR BEST IN THE QUALIFIER SO THAT YOU DON'T END UP WITH UGLY REGRETS.

I MADE YOU SOME BENTO.

ブル

ブル

ブル

ブル

OPEN

THE SUPER WINNER SET OF HAMKATSU, TONKATSU, GYUUKATSU AND MENCHIKATSU -----!

I KNEW IT---!

*/N KATSU = TO WIN
HAMKATSU = FRIED CAKE OF LAYERED SLICES OF HAM, TONKATSU = PORK CUTLET
GYUUKATSU = BEEF CUTLET, MENCHIKATSU = FRIED CAKE OF MINCED MEAT

T/N: YOUKAN = SWEET AZUKI BEAN JELLY

IT'S 'YOU CAN' YOUKAN-----!

みつり

I KNEW IT----!

THIS TIME I INCLUDED SOME EXTRAVAGANT SNACKS.

THEY ARE NUTRITIOUS.

THESE ARE TOO NUTRITIOUS!

THEY'RE SCARING ME! I'VE NEVER ONCE TRIED TO INTAKE THAT MUCH SUGAR AT ONCE!

ザワ

ザワ

AH!

ARE ALL THE FIRST ROUND MATCHES IN THE URAYASU AUDITORIUM FINALLY OVER...?

ザワ

ザワ

EH? MURAO-KUN DID?

WHAT?

REALLY?

HE LOST?

TO WHOM?

石天狗堂

創業寛政十二

...ALSO KNOW AS...

...THE MAUNDERER.

It's Blunderer!

TO THE GUY WHO WAS EMPLOYED BY OOISHI TENGUDOU CORPORATION AND THUS PARTICIPATES IN THE WESTERN QUALIFIER STARTING THIS YEAR...

T/N OO'SHI TENGUDOU PRODUCES CARD SETS, INCLUDING FOR KARUTA

I NOW HAVE ANOTHER SHOT TO TRY AND CHALLENGE MEIJIN SHOU AGAIN.

THANKS TO YOUR BOLD SPEECH DURING JANUARY'S MEIJIN SERIES FINAL,

GOTTA WORK HARD NOT TO BUST IT.

You're not going to see me...?

Tsuki mire-ba~

Wabi mire-ba~

IT'S BEEN 15 YEARS SINCE I DEVOTED MYSELF TO READING.

AND WHAT I'VE LEARNED FROM THESE YEARS IS THAT...

55 yo.

ALTHOUGH HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE RETIRED AS A PLAYER AND OUT OF PRACTICE...

58 yo.

WE'RE PRACTICALLY THE SAME AGE

AND HAVE KNOWN ABOUT EACH OTHER SINCE OUR HIGH SCHOOL DAYS.

UGH...

YOU'RE NOT HALF-BAD, IGARASHI-SAN.

IS MORE TAXING THAN BEING A PLAYER.

...BEING A READER

DID YOU SEE HOW IT WENT? LIKE THIS...

UM...

NO...

EH?

NO, IT WAS CLEARLY ME.

I WAS THE ONE TO TAKE THIS CARD JUST NOW.

IT WAS ME, I GUARANTEE YOU. THE CARD MOVED FROM MY PUSH, AND ONLY THEN YOU TOUCHED IT.

Ashibiki no~

BUT I...

UM...

UM...

Geez!

ALRIGHT, FINE! LET IT BE YOUR TAKE!

Hitori ka mo nemu~

Naga-nagashi yo wo~

AND DURING THAT TIME, HE IS REQUIRED TO PAY CONSTANT AND CLOSE ATTENTION TO ALL THE MATCHES

ON THE WHOLE PLAYING FIELD AND ADJUST THE RHYTHM, VOLUME AND REVERBERATION OF HIS VOICE AS THE SITUATION ON IT DICTATES.

I'm sorry about the [illegible] argument

Harada-san

DOES HARADA-SAN EVEN HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HARD IT IS ON THE READER?

ONCE THE ROUND STARTS, THE READER WILL HAVE TO STAND FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF.

DOES HARADA-SAN EVEN UNDER-STAND

REFUSES TO TAKE THE HINT AND TAKES HIS TIME TO MEMORIZE CARDS

HOW KIND HIROTA-KUN, WHO KEEPS HIS CALM AND DOESN'T GET IRRITATED NO MATTER WHAT, IS?

HMM MM-- ----

WAIT A SEC THERE.

HM? HMM?

WHILE AT THE SAME TIME NEVER FAILING TO NAG ABOUT EVERY SINGLE MISTAKE, NO MATTER HOW TINY!

sigh

AH, YEAH. THAT DISRUPTED MY RHYTHM, TOO.

THAT READER CLEARED HIS THROAT, AND I JUST...

NOT TO MENTION, EVERYONE DEMANDS BEAUTIFUL READING AND TAKES IT FOR GRANTED,

AND FOR MANY MATCHES IN A SINGLE DAY, TOO!

GAH!

THE READER CAN'T EVEN SAY ANYTHING WHEN HE'S SUBJECTED TO BREACHES OF THE ETIQUETTE!

YEAH, WAS WAITING FOR IT!

Tsuku-

ba ne

no~

THE PLAYERS ANY READER LIKES BEST ARE THE CALM CLEAN TYPE WHO ARE MINDFUL OF THEIR MANNERS, DON'T HESITATE, DON'T CONTEST CARDS OR MAKE OTHERS WAIT FOR THEM

BUT

THERE ARE THOSE WHO, RELYING ON THE READER'S READING,

DANCE THEIR SOUL AWAY FREELY TO THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF IT, AND WE DON'T EXACTLY HATE THAT EITHER.

Haru

no

yo

no~

STARTING WITH COVERING HER OWN FORMATION, SHE MOVED INTO THE ENEMY TERRITORY TOGETHER WITH THE SOUND OF THE DECISIVE SYLLABLE...

SO SMO-OTH!

SMO-OTH!

UWAAH!

SUCH LONG FINGERS!

HER MOTION IS THE OPPOSITE OF THE BACKSWING I'VE BEEN PRACTICING.

AT THIS RATE, I'LL BE FORCED ON THE DEFENSIVE.

WHAT WOULD SUDOU-SAN DO IF HE WERE IN MY SHOES?

LIKE HELL I KNOW. PISS OFF

I WANT TO ADMIRE HER...

BUT...

I GET THE FEELING THAT IF I DO, SHE'LL GET ANGRY...

MOST RIVALS I COMPETED WITH BACK IN THE DAY HAVE PARTED WITH THE WORLD OF KARUTA.

IT'S ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR WOMEN.

VERY FEW CAN STILL AFFORD TO PUT THEIR TIME AND EFFORT INTO KARUTA AFTER HITTING THEIR FOURTIES.

.....

10

mori~

Mi-

ka-

WHEN A YOUNG PLAYER LIKE HER MAKES FULL USE OF HER OUTSTANDING HEARING,

IT BECOMES HARD FOR ME TO KEEP UP.

AS EXPECTED FROM HER.

SUISAKI

I'LL GO FOR THE 3-SYLLABLE CARDS THAT I CAN IDENTIFY EARLIER AND START MOVING FIRST

IN A STRAIGHT LINE!

I'M NOT SURE WHAT MINDSET IS CORRECT FOR ME ANYMORE.

I'M NOT THE SAME AS I WAS BACK WHEN I CHASED THE QUEEN TITLE WITH EVERYTHING I HAD.

BUT I FEEL I NEED TO GET STRONGER ANYWAY.

FOR MY STUDENTS.

Moro-tomo ni~

Phew

sob

I DON'T HAVE A HENKER-CHIEF.

sob

BUT I HAVE SOME BABY WIPES...

"GIVE IT UP. YOU HAVE 3 CHILDREN NOW. TAKING CARE OF THEM ALL MUST BE BONE-BREAKING ALREADY WITHOUT ANYTHING ELSE IN THE MIX TO MAKE IT EVEN HARDER ON YOU."

"YOU'RE GOING BACK TO PLAYING KARUTA RIGHT AFTER GIVING BIRTH?"

sister

mother

I EXPRESSED REGRET,

SAYING IT WAS A SHAME, AND YET...

THE KARUTA MEETING HALL...

IT'S NO LONGER MYSELF WHO CAN STEP INTO ITS SPACIOUS ROOMS.

A PART OF ME WAS RELIEVED AT THE SAME TIME...

...THAT I DON'T NEED TO WORK HARD ANYMORE...

...THAT I CAN ESCAPE THOSE GRUELLING BATTLES.

AND YOUR TEARS LOOK LIKE A FLOOD FROM A DAM.

YOUR EYES ARE TOO BIG.

WHAT A FACE YOU'RE MAKING, HARUKA-SAN.

U~

Asabo~

rake~

THEN FLICK IT WITH YOUR FINGER FROM THE INSIDE,

FIRST, YOU COVER THE CARD,

I THOUGHT SHE SIMPLY TOUCHED IT, BUT IT WENT FLYING IN A WEIRD DIRECTION?

WH-

WHAT KIND OF TECHNIQUE WAS THAT, I WONDER?

SUBTLY.

I CAN BE PRETTY GOOD AT NASTY TRICKS, TOO, WHEN I WANT TO.

HARUKA-SAN CHALLENGED THE QUEEN IN THE QUEEN TITLE MATCHES

AND GAVE THE YOUNG QUEEN A RUN FOR HER MONEY, DESPITE BEING PREGNANT.

LAST YEAR

Su-

THIS YEAR IT SHOULD BE ME

THEN I CAN, TOO.

IF A RIVAL MY AGE CAN STILL WORK HARD

WHO WILL KEEP THEM BURNING.

UGH.

AGAIN.

THE EMOTIONS HARUKA-SAN SET ABLAZE LAST YEAR...

Kimi ga tame~

O-

mi

no e

no~

A QUICK TAKE AFTER CHALLENGING HER TO A TECHNIQUE BATTLE FOR MULTI-SYLLABLE CARDS.

SHE SLIPPED UNDER AYASE-SAN'S HAND!

THE GAME IS TURNING TIDES IN SAKURA-ZAWA-SAN'S FAVOR.

I'M GOOD WITH THE CARDS STARTING WITH THE S SOUND, TOO.

THAT'S RIGHT.

MAKING A YOUNG PLAYER EXPERIENCE THE SENSE OF FRUSTRATION AND FAILURE.

THIS DESIRE IS PART OF IT, TOO.

UGH!

Ama no hara~

NO WONDER, SINCE THE SENSE OF RHYTHM IS INGRAINED IN HIS BODY.

HE'S GOOD.

FUJISAKI

CHEEKY, BUT

"I WANT TO PLAY A KARUTA THAT WON'T LOSE TO THE SHIRANAMI OCIETY'S KARUTA "

PUTTING AN EXPRESSION LIKE THAT ON YOUR OPPONENT'S FACE...

IN THE END, BOTH MATSUGE-KUN AND MEGANE-KUN ARE CUTE LIKE THAT.

YOU'RE ONE LITTLE DEVIL, MATSUGE-KUN.

UHH!

THEY'RE JUST THE STEPPING STONES FOR THE CUTE ME!

WELL, YOU'RE NOT...

YOU'RE THE MAIN CHARACTERS OF YOUR TALES, RIGHT?

YOU KIDS THINK

NO MATTER HOW BRIGHT, YOU KIDS MAY SHINE,

YOU ARE ALL PART OF SOMEONE ELSE'S STORY.

NAMIDA, YOU BOUGHT TOO MANY HEAVY PET BOTTLES!

I WONDER HOW FAR THE QUALIFIER HAS PROGRESSED WHILE WE WERE BEING HELD UP?

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE WERE HELD UP FOR A WHOLE HOUR DUE TO A TRAIN ACCIDENT!

AWW WW- ---- ---!

ドッカーン ドッカーン

AH, KEEP YOUR VOICES DOWN, GUYS.

WHEN WE'RE CLOSE TO THE KARUTA MEETING HALL, WE'VE GOT TO BE QUIET.

ドッカーン ドッカーン

NO MATTER HOW IRREPLA-CEABLE.

YES, ONLY PART.

TDX Release
Chihayafuru
SPECIAL THANKS
Redrawing:
Nazo no Seibutsu